UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/879
S/1996/123
23 February 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 55
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 15 February 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 February 1996, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

96-04185 (E) 230296 240296

/...

ANNEX

Letter dated 14 February 1996 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a new development in southern Cyprus which has grave implications for the process of negotiations, conducted within your mission of good offices, and the peaceful solution of the Cyprus question. The said development involves the adoption on 8 February 1996 of a unanimous resolution by the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives, which, among other things, rules out any negotiation or even discussion of the issue of sovereignty. It also omits any reference to the finding of a bicommunal, bizonal federal solution to the Cyprus question, which has long been agreed as the only feasible settlement of the dispute.

It is significant to note that the said resolution comes barely a month after a similar unanimous decision by the Greek Cypriot "National Council" on 9 January 1996, which states that the issue of sovereignty cannot be made the subject of any negotiation or even discussion, and rejects bilateral negotiations between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot sides on grounds of an alleged lack of "common ground", thereby adding a new dimension to the manifest intransigence of the other side.

You are well aware that the fundamental issue of sovereignty has always been on the agenda of the intercommunal talks, and the set of ideas you put forward in 1992 deals with this question by stating that it "emanates equally from both communities. One community cannot claim sovereignty over the other community" (see annex to S/24472 of 21 August 1992). By refusing even to discuss this subject let alone negotiate it, the Greek Cypriot side, in effect, is repudiating one of the agreed parameters of a solution and erecting a new and serious obstacle in the way of a negotiated settlement. This fact, coupled with the omission of even a passing reference to a bicommunal, bizonal federation based on the political equality of the two sides, once more demonstrates how far the Greek Cypriot side is from a just and lasting settlement.

Some of the other features of this unfortunate resolution are the further intensification of the international propaganda campaign against the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkey, already running in high gear; recourse to international bodies on humanitarian issues, such as the question of missing persons, in spite of the other side's known bad faith on this issue; misrepresentation of the recent Customs Union agreement between the European Union and Turkey; and collaboration between the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece in promoting their case in Europe.

You will appreciate that the above has devastating consequences for the relations between the two communities, already suffering from a deep crisis of confidence and the refusal of the other side to implement the confidence-building measures, and constitutes a severe blow to efforts for the creation of an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of direct dialogue between the two parties.

/...

I wish to stress that this totally negative and adversarial resolution is perhaps the most damaging document that has emerged from the Greek Cypriot legislative body since the infamous "ENOSIS resolution" of 26 June 1967, envisaging the annexation of Cyprus to Greece, which has never been repealed.

At a time when efforts are under way to resume direct negotiations between the two sides, this resolution undermines the very basis of the negotiating process for a peaceful solution, and once more exposes the total lack of political will on the part of the Greek Cypriot side for a negotiated settlement. I have no doubt that the situation created by this ominous development will be appropriately evaluated by you as well as the international community, in your efforts to help achieve a just and lasting solution in Cyprus.

I would be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus